Letters from Mrs. Fletcher
& Charles Knight illustrate
most conclusively the very
threatening nature of the
mischief made by Mr James
Mahoney's article "Mesmer
& Chevreul", — in the prosecution
of which he was the ed-
itor. Mr Knight wanted to
break his contract with her
for the "Illust. Peace" & declared
that she would never, hereaf-
ter, find a publisher; — & Mrs
Fletcher, with whom she had
been so intimate & to whom
she appreciated formally & by
letter, renounced her acquaintance
though she had never read the
book which Mr Mahoney took
for his text in his attack upon
her sister. I am here summ

ed that Mr. Mathewson was not alone in the feelings that prompted him to that attack. Dr Greenhow, Harriet's medical adviser was also a brother-in-law, having married the Elder Sister, Elizabeth, - & all the family without exception, took it into their heads that Harriet's own kinder other treatment was in injury to Greenhow. They almost seemed to think she had rather died than not have recovered secundum Artem. Her Brother James so inflamed her mother's mind against her on this occasion, that (see Autog) she refused to see her. Her Sister Rachel

was alienated — so degrading was the charge insinuated against her as "Mesmeric Atheism") & ultimately, as the necessity for verbal self defence grew imperative upon her, Her Brother Robert & all the family signed a Paper, drawn up by her Sister Ellen, urging upon her not to defend herself in Conversation: "James never speaks against you." "He has no need;" says Harriet in reply: "He has no scruple about using the press, to attack us."

I, deeply moved by all this kindness, had an opportunity to talk to Ellen about

n; for, having been invited & urged to make her house in Liverpool my point of debarkation from that port for Boston, I seized the occasion to beg her to withdraw that so long standing demand on Harriet for silence under James's Slanders. "You are not going to let her die with that Weight on her bosom!" I said. But in vain. And the last conversation I had with Her was to the effect that She had never read the article in the Westminster Review, & never meant to do so. That She never meant to read any thing. I might infer That there was but one

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person guarded to write her dear Harriet's life. "Who is that?" - "Sir James Martin - can." The affection of Harriet for Ellen is to be accounted for under the circumstances from her birth; - but was certainly as great a delusion as that of Titania for Nick Bottom. She was not forgetful of Ellen's shameful act; - so far from it, that she not unfrequently said - dear Ellen! - that never did but one wrong thing! -

And so impressed was she by the whole mass of wrong dealing from her family under which she lived, that I have reason to know that only a sense of what was fit & becoming in herself, & her -

unable to the interests of Literature & Science of which she was so prominent a representative, - induced her to leave her property to her family. She asked me anxiously, the question in three long words:- "Do you think I am wrong in leaving my property to my family?"

The young daughters of her brother Robert I have known personally & intimately. They have not hesitated to avow in the house the hatred of an editor & typographer, with a passion of weeping & thanks. They say the conduct of the family was "all jealousy

of her superiority!" She was,
in short, the Swan among
Ducks Geese & Barn-door
fowls